

Eyes of the **Eagle**

May 2000



**Wing passes
IG test**

Core values define airmen

BY BRIG. GEN. BEN T. ROBINSON

Commander

It's great to be back in Oklahoma serving with the best people in the Air Force. I've seen so many familiar faces and many more new ones since I took command in March.

Even though many of the faces have changed, the attitude, drive and desire to serve the greatest nation in the world remain the same. It's this attitude that I see as the building block for the higher standard that our people exemplify. Each one of us strives to the best we can be.

What is the tie that binds us together as Air Force members? It is the three phrases we should all know; Integrity first, Service before self and Excellence in all we do—the Air Force core values. The easy thing would be to define what these values mean to me. However, the best way is to show examples of how each core value applies to real life.

Integrity first

I read an article about an airman who was driving down the road in Florida. This airman came upon what he thought was a book. He pulled over and picked it up. He discovered it was someone's organizer and in that organizer was \$9,000. He closed the book and took it to the local police department.

The story doesn't end there. The police located the book's owner and returned it to her. The owner was obviously relieved. You see, the owner was soon to be married and the money was for her wedding expenses.

When the airman was questioned about his actions, he responded that it was the Air Force core values that motivated him to return the organizer.

This airman had a tough decision to make and with the core values as his guide, he made the right one. Integrity

is simply doing the right thing when no one else knows but you.

Service before self

There are many examples of service before self. In today's all-volunteer military, this core value is very important to each of us. Service before self enables acts of courage during combat and operations other than war.

There is a story about the actions of several members of an Air National Guard unit during Operation Desert Storm which exemplifies this core value. On one mission into Saudi Arabia to evacuate civilians from the airport at Dhahran, they found 60 American children, all less than 12 years old.

Most were too small to reach the airlifter's handrail, so these members carried each child up the steep aircraft steps. Minutes after they strapped the kids in, the airfield came under attack by SCUD missiles. The plane was unable to take off and the guardsmen evacuated the kids two and three at a time on their backs and in their arms.

Inside a nearby bunker, there was not enough chemical protection gear to go around. The guardsmen had the equipment, but refused to wear it because the gas masks scared the children. When a messenger reported a chemical agent in the air, the commanding officer asked what protection was available for the kids. The answer was none.

Simultaneously, the crew put down their gas masks. They played with the kids, and waited for the end. It never came—the report of a chemical warhead was a mistake. The crew reloaded and flew to safety. They knew the meaning of service before self. A final comment—service before self does not mean

service before family.

Excellence in all we do

This final core value truly expresses the attitude each one of us should take when it comes to our profession. One example is that of Col. Joshua L. Chamberlain, commander of the 20th Regiment from Maine during the battle of Gettysburg.

After marching all day and night to reach Gettysburg, the regiment was ordered to occupy critical terrain between two hills, Big and Little Round Top. Chamberlain was ordered to hold this position on the extreme left flank of the Union

line at all costs. Chamberlain knew that if his unit was outflanked, the Union could lose the battle.

Shortly after the 20th Maine was in position, the 15th and 47th Alabama Regiments attacked. The 20th Maine held off six attacks by the Alabama regiments, but Chamberlain knew that his was not equipped to withstand a seventh attack. He ordered his regiment to attack with a legendary command, "Fix bayonets!"

The 20th charged the startled Confederates and broke their attack. The 20th Maine took 400 prisoners and stopped the Confederates threat to the Union flank.

Chamberlain was determined not to fail at his task and therefore excelled. He was awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions.

These are just a few examples that bring home the core values better than any simple definition could. Hold true to the values we have and live up to the higher standards the military offers society. You will hear more on values in the future.



Brig. Gen.
Ben Robinson

COMMANDER

Brig. Gen. Ben Robinson

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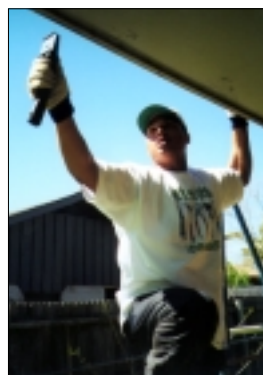
An operational readiness inspection participant marks a perimeter around simulated unexploded ordnance April 25. Photo by Larry Smith.

On the wall ...

Wing members worked around the clock to bring the travelling Memorial Wall to central Oklahoma.



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Christmas comes early

They may not be Santa's elves, but more than 400 wing members helped fix homes through Christmas in April.

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965th AACs notes

We would like to welcome the following individuals to our squadron: Capt. Douglas Simpson, 1st Lt. Jose Varela, SrA. Kris Figueroa, SSgt. Alan Cunningham, Maj. James Platz and Amn. Melissa Norris.

We would like to bid farewell to : Capt. Jennifer Orie, 1st Lt. Kevin Murphy, SSgt. Wade Plant, A1C Jeremy Hair and SSgt. Michael Cowan.

The 965th has been preparing for the ORI, but members of the squadron have still found time to help out in the neighboring community, supporting Habitat for Humanity.

On April 7, the Tinker Top 3 hosted a clean up of 29th Street Douglas Boulevard to Post Road. The Top 3 from the 965th included: CMSgt. Anthony Wickliffe, SMSgt. Steve King, SMSgt. Wesley Stanley, MSgt. Dean Garrison and MSgt. Brian Edwards. The clean up is done annually and helps to beautify Tinker AFB as well as the surrounding community. Great job, Top 3.

552nd EMS notes

The 552nd Equipment Maintenance Squadron would like to welcome the following individuals: Amn. Jason Anderson, Amn. Anthony Bavuso, Amn. Christopher Combs, AB Gary Haynes Jr., A1C Ferdinand Iligan, A1C Jackie Rice, A1C Michael Shults and A1C Lee Trocinske to our squadron.

We bid farewell to our First Sergeant MSgt. Kevin Brown, MSgt. James Robertson and TSgt. Tony Ferrell.

Congratulations to Capt. Rosemary Thorne for being selected for promotion to major. Our quarterly award winners were MSgt. Donna Bergonzi, SNCO category, SSgt. Anthony Stewart in the NCO category and SrA. Silvano Leyva for the airman category.

Congratulations also to SrA. Jerome Ware for winning the "Eagle Eye" award, Maintenance Flight for winning

AROUND THE WING

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the "FOD Squad" award and TSgt. Rory Wilson who captured the FOD slogan and FOD poster award for the first quarter. TSgt. Lionel Stevens earned distinguished graduate recognition upon his completion of the NCO Academy.

We also have a new addition the EMS family, SSgt. William Clark's wife Christine gave birth to a healthy baby girl on March 21; she was 6 lbs. 10 oz. and 19 inches long.

552nd CRS notes

The 552nd Component Repair Squadron would like to congratulate the squadron's quarterly award winners: A1C Isaac Cummings, SSgt. Michael Murphy, MSgt. James Brown and 2nd Lt. Kimberly O'Rourke.

The February Logistics Professionals are MSgt. James Brown, TSgt. Carl Huss, SrA Brian Smith and A1C Kathleen Hogle. The March Logistics Professionals are MSgt. Douglas Wiggins, SSgt. Mark Kolat and A1C Justin Rasco. The Logistics Professional of the first quarter is MSgt. James Brown.

The squadron's annual award winners are SrA. Daniel McSwain, SSgt. Anthony Thompson and MSgt. David Jans; SSgt. Anthony Thompson is also the 552nd Air Control Wing NCO of the Year. ACW Quarterly winners from the squadron are A1C Douglas Picard and Thompson; the Logistics Group Maintenance Professional of the Year is TSgt. Randolph Stalnaker.

Below-the-zone selectees are A1C

Andrew Griggs and A1C Orlando Valles. Dormitory Room of the Quarter winner for Bldg. 5910 is Amn. Matthew Jones, Room 308. 90's Club academic achievement on CDCs goes to A1C Peter Janeczko. Recipients of the Air Force Good Conduct Medal include A1C Joseph Breese, SrA. Devon Brown, A1C Joshua Coleman, SSgt. Kevin Gribble, A1C Jacob Hornsby, TSgt. Frank Howard, SrA. Richard Meadows, A1C Jacob Schilter, SSgt. Jonathan Skipper, SrA. Faisal Suleiman and SSgt. Cedric Weatherspoon.

Congratulations to our reigning squadron fitness-program leaders: SSgt. Cornelius Wooten and A1C Edgar Gaytan.

552nd TRS notes

The 552nd Training Squadron was off to the horse races this last month.

A squadron night out was spent at Remington Park enjoying opening day with a series of nine races and a good time had by all.

Wing's Pin-On recipients included: 2nd Lt. Britt Sonnichsen, 2nd Lt. Brian Sparks, 2nd Lt. Jayson Murgioitio, 2nd Lt. Dennis Wilde, 2nd Lt. Joseph Banks, 2nd Lt. Gregory Roby, 2nd Lt. Joe Monastra, SSgt. A.L. Cunningham, A1C Lawrence Farve, A1C Daniel Blackwell, SrA. Gavin Rodney, A1C Kurt Gunder, A1C Ioannis Bened and A1C Robert Christiansen Jr.

We're glad to add a newcomer to our cadre of instructors with 1st Lt. Kevin Murphy joining us as an instructor navigator.

964th AACs notes

The 964th wishes the following airmen goodbye and good luck: SSgt. Chris Andrews, SrA. Shamus Dundon, 1st Lt. Mara Schuessler, SrA. Tony Navarro, SSgt. Lou Meyer, Maj. Amin Aur, Capt. Steve Marin, 1st Lt. Chris Vorse, MSgt. Raymond Howard, SSgt.

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EYES OF THE EAGLE

Wing, from Page 4

William Morgan, Capt. Beth Dittmer, MSgt. Matthew Mudra, AB David Neilsen, Capt. Reece Baldwin, AB Jonathan Bumgarner, and Maj. Rob Huber.

Welcome to all the new airmen: A1C Tina Teague, Maj. Bruce O'Cain, A1C Shane Panter, Maj. William Bergman, 1st Lt. C.G. Alvarez, 2nd Lt. Garne Hixson, Capt. Sean O'Neill, Maj. Robert Nuanes, Maj. Emanuel Sears, and the new 552nd Air Control Wing Vice Commander, Col. Leonard Maggio.

This month has been busy for the 964th. We said goodbye to MSgt. Ray Howard with a beautiful retirement ceremony. Apr 6th was the 964th Training Day and we also had a bake sale for MS Walk 2000. Congratulations to our airmen who graduated from Airman Leadership School: SrA. Todd Cramer, SrA. Eron Pyles, SrA. Sonja Hamilton and SrA. Brenda Thacker.

552nd OSS notes

The 552nd Operations Support Squadron congratulates our newest major selects: Capt. Reece Baldwin, Capt. Pete Bastien, Capt. Ed Fisher, Capt. Greg Guillot (ISS Selectee), Capt. Don Scott and Capt. Tom Parks.

Our outstanding performers win the 552nd OSS 1st quarter awards: Company Grade Officer: Capt. Tom Parks; Non-commissioned Officer: SSgt. Jonathan Raby; and Airman of the quarter: A1C Steven Clark.

Great Job! SrA Jackie Bishop was named "John L. Levitow" award winner at Airman leadership school.

Welcome Capt. Michael Kirkman, Maj. Arthur Henry, SSgt. Clay Taylor, SrA. Michael Wilkerson, Capt. Reece Baldwin, SSgt. Andrew Pearson, SrA. Derek Morree, MSgt. Charles Hardy and A1C Brandon Faris into the OSS family.

A fond farewell goes out to Capt.

AROUND THE WING

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Edward Fisher, 2nd Lt. Todd Crooks, SSgt. Terri Baird, TSgt. Scott Reinhard and SSgt. Christopher Kimber. They will be greatly missed!

552nd CSS notes

Farewell to A1C Kevin Moore and SSgt. Edward Kuhaneck, both going to the civilian world; TSgt. Rodney Andree, who is going to Iceland; and SrA. Eugene Powers is leaving for San Antonio. TSgt. Kenneth Dewey is retiring.

Our outstanding flight superior performers were 1st Lt. Dione Sturd (software flight), SSgt. Wayne Smith (operational test flight) and Terry Miller (software services flight).

Our recent promotees are MSgt. William Zook, TSgt. George Bradley, SSgt. Samuel Kegler and SSgt. Larry Kisner.

The 552 CSS Quarterly Award Winners are: A1C Brandon Vandry, TSgt. Todd Sapp, MSgt. Bobbi Kreiser, Capt. Steve Bailey and Susie Jenkins. 552nd Computer Systems Group winners from the squadron were Kreiser and Bailey.

752nd CSS notes

The 752nd Computer Systems Squadron welcomes TSgt. James Pollock to the squadron.

Good luck and thank you for a job well done to SSgt. Brian Seldomridge, and SrA. Kevin Gillis, who are PCSing; TSgt. Lonnie Barton, who is PCAing; and SrA. Weston Doughty,

who is separating.

Congratulations to the COMSEC/Tape Library Team (Capt. Jay Custine, SrA. Jimmy Fernandez and A1C Angela Parker), who were recognized as a Superior Performing Team in the Phase I operational readiness exercise at Prince Sultan Air Base, Saudi Arabia.

We would like to recognize TSgt. Derek Van Dwyne for his decision to reenlist in the Air Force for three more years.

We would also like to recognize SSgt. Mellissa West who placed second in the women's category at the Tinker 5K Fun Run April 11.

552nd AGS notes

Our squadron's latest award winners include: Airman of the Quarter — SrA. Mark Martinez; NCO of the Quarter — TSgt. James Delap; Senior NCO of the Quarter — SMSgt. Michael Stoklosa; and CGO of the Quarter — Capt. Richard Kallstrom.

The AGS maintenance professionals of month are SrA. John Accola, Michael Nesbitt and A1C John Steele. AGS maintenance professionals of the quarter are SrA. Ben Foulke, TSgt. Daniel Gauthier, MSgt. Raymond Demary and Kallstrom.

DUI free

The 552nd Air Control Wing has not had a driving-under-the-influence or driving-while-intoxicated incident for 8 days as of May 10.

Courtesy of 552nd ACW/SE

Take me out to the crowd

The Oklahoma Redhawks play host to the Wing Nite at the Redhawks at 7 p.m. June 2 at the Bricktown Ballpark. Tickets are \$5 (children under two are free) for an evening of America's pastime, and are available from the following:

Wing staff: SSgt. Jennifer Thomas at 4-7522, or SSgt. Angie Willis at 4-5570.

CSG: SSgt. Laura Pagan at 4-3363, or TSgt. Wayne Smith at 4-5463.

LG: 2nd Lt. Wayne Roach at 4-2462, or SMSgt. John Hunt at 4-2462.

OG: 1st Lt. Chris Janusiewicz at 4-4275, or 1st Lt. Orbie Arreola at 4-4275.

OU enrollment

The University of Oklahoma on Tinker is currently accepting applications for the Master of Human Relations with an emphasis on Human Resources Development and the Master of Public Administration Programs. Enrollment for HR 5082-104: Group Dynamics, is underway until May 16. This course meets June 16-18 and 23-25 (two weekends only).

This course focuses on the basic fundamentals of behavior in groups and of group functioning. Participants will develop and improve group facilitation skills. Topics to be explored in the course will be: types of groups, stages of group functioning, leadership in groups, managing problems in groups

AWACS welcome



Photo by Margo Wright

Brig. Gen. Ben Robinson, left, 552nd Air Control Wing commander, welcomes President Clinton to Tinker April 19. Clinton visited Oklahoma City to speak at the dedication of the Oklahoma City Bombing Memorial.

and ethics in conducting groups.

For additional information, contact the OU Field Coordinator, Chris Kern-Garcia, by calling 9-7365 or stop by Bldg 201SE.

Sharpshooters wanted

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas — The Air Force Shooting Team

needs at least 30 new members for the 2001 competitive season.

The team consists of active-duty members participating in nine disciplines: action pistol, American skeet, high-power rifle, international pistol, international rifle, international skeet, international trap, national pistol, and running target.

Interested individuals should contact the Gerrity Fitness Center to submit an application.

Summer school

Rose State College is currently enrolling students for on-base courses. Classes begin June 5 and end Aug. 1.

Returning RSC students may enroll in person at the TAFB/RSC Office, on campus, on-line or by calling 733-7475. New students should contact the on-base RSC office at 9-5774, to set up an appointment for admission. Students interested in taking courses on RSC campus may also enroll on base.

For additional information, visit the RSC office in Building 201SE or call 9-5774.



552nd Air Control Wing Sortie Productivity

(As of April 25)

Flying Squadron	Monthly Goal	Monthly Sched.	Sorties Sched.	Sorties Flown
963rd AACS	31	33	28	29
964th AACS	31	33	28	29
965th AACS	35	37	37	43
966th AACS	43	45	38	43
Wing totals	140	148	131	144

Source: 552nd OSS/OSOA

Command reaches DUI goal, reaps unique reward

BY CAPT. MICHAEL S. BRAIBISH

12th Air Force Public Affairs

Units throughout 12th Air Force recently met a challenge from the commander and command chief master sergeant to have less than ten DUI incidents within a month.

Lt. Gen. Doc Foglesong, 12th AF commander, and Command CMSgt. Gary Coleman laid out the challenge in February, and promised to shave their heads when the goal was met.

The command met the goal in February, and the hair came off April 3.

Foglesong declared war on DUIs in December in order to reduce the DUI rate from 176 reported incidents in fiscal year 1999. At the heart of the anti-DUI campaign is a zero-tolerance policy implemented in an effort to eliminate DUIs altogether.

"We've made tremendous strides in the anti-DUI effort, but we can't afford to let up," said Foglesong. "Drinking and driving has horrible consequences for people's lives — it can destroy careers, devastate families, and at its worst injure or kill."

Since the war on DUIs was declared,

units throughout the command became engaged in aggressive campaigns to inform people about the dangers and tragic results of driving under the influence.

During a recent commanders conference, leaders throughout 12th AF discussed ways to keep the war on DUIs on track, said Chief Master Sgt. Coleman, and the challenge was seen as a way to keep people focused on doing the right thing.

"We're drawing attention to the seriousness of this issue as well as recognizing the success of our wings' efforts in combating this unacceptable behavior," said the command chief.

If someone chooses to drive while drunk, he or she will immediately face appropriate disciplinary measures.

Military members are subject to the Uniform Code of Military Justice. Possible responses to a military drunk driver include non-judicial punishment under Article 15 and prosecution in a trial by court-martial.

In drunk driving cases involving military members off-base or with a civilian, the civilian authorities normally have jurisdiction and determine how to handle the offense. However, the installation com-



Courtesy photo

Lt. Gen. Doc Foglesong, 12th Air Force commander, turns the clippers on Command Chief Master Sgt. Gary Coleman after receiving a shearing of his own Apr. 3 at the Davis-Monthan AFB (Ariz.) Officers Club.

mander may request the civilian authorities waive jurisdiction over a military member. If this happens, the member would be subject to discipline under the UCMJ.

Where jurisdiction is retained by the civilian authorities or with a civilian offender on base, the installation commander and the member's immediate commander may take administrative measures including counseling, reprimand or loss of on-base driving privileges. Ultimately, the commander will take whatever appropriate measures necessary to protect the military community while insuring the drunk driver understands the dangers of driving under the influence of alcohol.

"There's absolutely no reason why anyone should get behind the wheel after drinking," said the 12th AF commander. "It's not worth the risk to yourself, your career, or the people you share the road with."

"Before any alcohol touches your lips you need to make sure a sober driver will take you home. That's how we stop DUIs in their tracks."

Of the 176 incidents last year, the 12th AF safety office reported that 66 were committed by military members on base, 101 by military members off-base, and 9 family members on base.

DUI rates jump

The 12th Air Force DUI rate jumped last month to 18, tying the highest number of monthly DUIs on record for the command.

"We dodged a bullet this month and didn't lose anybody," said Lt. Gen. Doc Foglesong, the 12th AF commander, "but the bottom line is that there's no excuse for drinking and driving, especially with all the fair and reasonable options out there."

"I can't say it any other way: don't drink and drive. It's not worth it to your career, your family, or the lives of the people you may injure or kill."

The following incidents account for the April DUIs reported to 12th AF.

Rank	Unit	Disposition		
552nd Air Control Wing				
SrA.	552nd OG	Civ. court pend.	55th Wing, Offutt AFB, Neb.	
3rd Combat Communications Group			SrA.	55th CES LOR/UIF, civ. court pend.
TSgt.	3rd CCG	LOR/UIF	SrA.	55th MXS LOR/UIF, civ. court pend.
9th Reconnaissance Wing, Beale AFB, Calif.			355th Wing, Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz.	
A1C	13th IS	Action pending	Amn.	355th SVS Action pending
A1C	9th SFS	Article 15	SrA.	41st ECS Action pending
Amn.	9th CES	Action pending	A1C	355th EMS Article 15
Amn.	9th CES	Action pending	366th Wing, Mountain Home AFB, Idaho	
49th Fighter Wing, Holloman AFB, N.M.			Lt. Col.	366th MDOS Action pending
Lt. Col.	49th ADS	Article 15	A1C	391st FS Action pending
SSgt.	49th CES	Action pending	388th Fighter Wing, Hill AFB, Utah	
			SrA.	366th SFS LOR/UIF, civ. court pend.
			SrA.	389th FS LOR/UIF, jury trial pend.
			A1C	388th MXS Article 15

Combat ready

AWACS passes IG test

By SSgt. STEVE MARCINIAK

552nd Air Control Wing Public Affairs

The 552nd Air Control Wing is ready to fight our nation's wars, according to the Air Combat Command Inspector General.

That's the word following the wing's operational readiness inspection, held at Prince Sultan Air Base, Saudi Arabia, from April 9 through 15, then at Tinker April 25-27.

The wing earned an overall "combat ready" rating from the IG, setting a new standard by earning that mark on 56 of the 59 areas covered. The inspection tested the wing on its ability to carry out the mission in a combat environment.

"This has got to be one of the greatest feelings in the world, to come to a wing that is a world-class wing, and the way you've just proven it one more

time," said Brig. Gen. Ben Robinson, wing commander. "The day I got here, I thanked (Brig. Gen. Lee McFann, former wing commander) for turning over such a great wing in such great shape, and we talked about the ORI and how one more time, we would validate that this wing is a warrior wing. This wing is a wing that can fight, and today we once more validated that we're combat ready, and we're damned proud of it."

These remarks sparked a deafening roar from the crowd gathered at the base theater April 28 to hear the IG's outbrief.

Most of those in attendance had participated in the ability to survive and operate portion of the inspection, which was held on Tinker's south ramp. During the course of the inspection, they demonstrated their skills at preparing, maintaining and launch-



A maintainer searches near an E-3 for simulated unexploded ordnance.

ing E-3s while responding to simulated conventional and chemical attacks. The participants were then graded on how well they performed in these conditions.

Once the ratings were tallied, the IG determined the wing to be combat ready in each of the major areas, including command and control, maintenance, operations, mission support and ability to survive and operate.

The IG also inspected the wing on Air Combat Command and Air Force special interest items: use of the Airman's Manual; nuclear, biological and chemical ATSO procedures; and status of resources and training reporting. Each of these areas could be graded either satisfactory or unsatisfactory.



Maintainers return from the flightline after a simulated attack at the beginning of the operational readiness inspection.

Superior Performers

Superior performance teams

363rd EAACS Communications Team
 363rd EAACS Comsec/Tape Library Team
 363rd EAACS Flight Deck Crew 1
 363rd EAACS Intelligence Team
 363rd EAACS Launch Team
 363rd EAACS Maintenance Recovery Team
 363rd EAACS Maintenance Support Team
 363rd EAACS Tactics-Mission Planning Team
 363rd EAACS Weapons Crew 1
 Aircrew 4 CCA Processees
 AM Sweep Team Leaders
 PM Sweep Team Leaders
 Contamination Control Team Alpha
 Contamination Control Team Bravo
 Day Mission Planning Team
 Night Mission Planning Team
 Intelligence Team
 Maintenance Training and Setup Team
 Site Hardening Team

Superior performers

Capt. Todd Arvidson	964th AACCS
Capt. Robert Barker	552nd AGS
Capt. Peter Bastien	552nd OSS
Capt. Robert Copes	552nd AGS
Capt. Gregory Guillot	552nd OSS
Capt. Edward Meyer	963rd AACCS
Capt. Christopher Quimby	963rd AACCS
Capt. Christopher Rybicki	964th AACCS
1st Lt. Kenneth Anderson	552nd AGS
1st Lt. Christian Janusiewicz	964th AACCS
1st Lt. Dione Sturd	552nd CSS
2nd Lt. Dany Mark Strakos	752nd CSS
TSgt. Dale Cox	552nd AGS
TSgt. Matthew Davis	552nd AGS
TSgt. Gary Maloney Jr.	964th AACCS
TSgt. Eric Nichols	552nd CRS
TSgt. Ronald Whitehead	963rd AACCS
SSgt. Michele Allen	963rd AACCS
SSgt. Robert Arnett	965th AACCS
SSgt. Jeffrey Guyer	966th AACCS
SSgt. Darlene Harris	963rd AACCS
SSgt. Caren McDonald	963rd AACCS
SSgt. Robert Weir Jr.	552nd LG
SSgt. Michael Ziara	752nd CSS
SrA. Celia Blood	552nd AGS
SrA. Ronnie Christopher	552nd LSS
SrA. Jason Keeton	552nd AGS
SrA. Eric McDonald	966th AACCS
SrA. Marc Pelletier	552nd CRS
SrA. Sharon Vanderwende	552nd LG
SrA. Carlton Zurovec	552nd AGS
A1C Paul Allies	964th AACCS
A1C Justin Bobillo	552nd AGS
A1C Scott Fitzpatrick	552nd LSS
A1C Shawn McCorkhill	966th AACCS
A1C Clifton Sneed	552nd AGS



Photos by SSgt. Steve Marciniak

Participants wash their boots to decontaminate them while processing through the contamination control area.

"I'm not sure it can be done any better than that," said Brig. Gen. Ronald Sams, the command's inspector general. He went on to present ACC/IG coins to MSgt. Richard Pretlow of the 552nd Component Repair Squadron, and TSgt. William Houge, a member of the wing IG staff. Pretlow performed buddy care on a fellow ORI participant who had succumbed to heat, while Houge served as a liaison for the ACC/IG team, ensuring they were able to complete the inspection.

"I know it's a lot of work to get ready for an inspection ... but in the long run, you're not getting ready for an inspection, you're getting ready for combat," Sams said. "I will personally go up to (Gen. John Jumper, ACC commander) and tell him what an outstanding job the 552nd did here at Tinker."

factory, and the wing received satisfactory ratings.

During the course of the inspection at both locations, the IG named 19 superior performance teams and 37 individual superior performers. Additionally, the wing's operational risk management and theater certification programs were identified as best practices.

Wing helps bring traveling wall to metro



TSgt. John Bona, pointing, 552nd CRS, assists Samina Hasan and Stephanie Howe during their recent visit to the traveling Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

As America commemorated the 25th anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War, nearly 300 members of the 552nd Air Control Wing honored those who gave their lives by volunteering to assist with the traveling Vietnam Veterans Memorial during its recent stop in Edmond April 28 to May 1.

The traveling memorial, called "The Wall that Heals," is more than 210 feet long and stands more than six feet high (half-scale replica of the actual memorial in Washington D.C.).

Each of the volunteers served by escorting Oklahoma residents to view the wall and setup and break down of the memorial.



A1C Rex Dickens, center, 552nd CRS, discusses the memorial with Bettye Sweat and Dana Baye.



Visitors stroll past the wall.



The wall on display in Edmond.

*Photos by
Capt. John Eloff*

CMMI helps 552nd CSS get it done 'QUICK'

1ST LT. HUGH O'DONNELL

552nd Computer Systems Squadron

Computer users have grown accustomed to software crashes and re-booting their computers. However, with AWACS software, re-booting in the middle of a mission due to a software problem is not acceptable.

The 552nd Computer Systems Squadron, which is responsible for maintaining AWACS software, constantly improves the way it develops software to prevent bugs and ensure computer users are satisfied.

Since 1993, the squadron has used the Software Capability Maturity Model (SW-CMM) to guide its process improvement efforts. In 1997, the 552nd Computer Systems Group was assessed as a SW-CMM Level 3 organization. Only eight percent of Air Force software development organizations have achieved this rating.

By doing so, the CSG demonstrated an ability to repeatedly produce quality software on time, through a process for management and engineering activities. The assessment was the capstone of a four-year improvement program that standardized project management, organizational structure, training, process definition and documentation.

Many new faces arrived in 1999, including all the squadron's officers. This turnover encouraged the 552nd CSS to reinvent its improvement program. Squadron senior management developed new goals for software development and maintenance.

Quality - Provide quality products that customers want to use.

User focus - Focus on the customer throughout the software life cycle.

Innovative personnel - Utilize innovative personnel to provide the best product possible.

Challenge - Challenge our people to make decisions, provide feedback, and improve the squadron.

Knowledge and tools - Ensure that our people are equipped with the knowledge and tools needed for customer satisfaction.

With these new goals, the 552nd CSS focused on improvement and getting the mission done "QUICK." Initiatives were put into place to improve the foundations of our software, the best people, process and technology available. These initiatives include training, customer service, CMMI, resources, and squadron feedback.

Typically it takes a year and a half for a programmer or tester to be fully trained on the systems they are working with. Lt. Col. Nancy Bettis, 552nd CSS commander, dedicated Thursday mornings to training time. This time has helped personnel learn necessary programming languages, systems, and software engineering skills.

Customer service is important to a software development organization. Providing the best solutions and service to the 552nd ACW and other users is a renewed priority in the 552nd CSS. The squadron is interfacing more with users and developing a new customer satisfaction survey so we can help our user's accomplish their mission. In addition to seeking feedback, every member of the

squadron will attend a Customer Care course to improve our customer service skills.

Over a decade has passed since the CMM was developed. The Software Engineering Institute, the custodians of the CMM, is developing a replacement, the Capability Maturity Model Integrated. The 552nd CSS is assisting in developing this new model and will participate in a pilot assessment May 15 through 26.

In a story heard across the Air Force, the 552nd CSS is asked to do more with less. Innovation was required to find the resources we need. An automated testing program that has dramatically sped up system testing of Windows applications was acquired through the Y2K program. New computers and software for the squadron were purchased through funding from the FASTCAP program. The CMMI assessment is being funded by the SEI and the Software Technology Support Center at Hill AFB, Utah.

With all the changes that have occurred in the last year, there is still room for improvement. Squadron members are constantly challenged by senior leadership to find ways to improve. Later this month, a web-based "feedback box" will be created on the squadron home page. This feedback box will allow anonymous feedback and improved computer based tracking.

These changes are already paying off for 552nd CSS and the wing, increasing the focus on system quality and the users' needs. Leveraging innovative people and solutions has resulted in successful completion of the Student Tracking Program.

Rapid development improvement efforts led to a 300-percent increase in programmer productivity, high system quality and increased customer satisfaction, paving the way for future project success.

Newest COMACC voices views on command, personal interests

By MSgt. Dawn Collazo

Air Combat Command Public Affairs

LANGLEY AIR FORCE BASE, Va. (ACCNS) — What's he about, what's on his mind, where's the command going? All reasonable questions considering not too long ago the reign of Air Combat Command was turned over to a decorated Vietnam veteran and most recently a distinguished Operation Allied Force leader.

The leader, ACC Commander Gen. John P. Jumper, spoke passionately about these areas and more during an interview with ACC News Service here recently.

Challenges

"The biggest challenge that we have to face in the near future is the transition to the Aerospace Expeditionary Force," Jumper said.

It's going to be a hard transition because we're coming out of a Cold War mentality — a way of life we've had for 50 years, the general said. We're going to transition into a lifestyle that's more agile and more flexible and it's going to put predictability into the daily routine of our people.

"I think the concern is not so much that you're gone for so many days but that you don't know when you're going or when you're coming back," Jumper said. The transition to the AEF is going to help with that.

"We want our families to be able to enjoy one another. We want our members to be able to participate in the upbringing of their children and their families just like their civilian counterparts, and have a quality of life that is similar to those people that

we're sworn to defend. That's what we owe them, and that's what I intend to do," said the general.

Two hardest things we do

"I believe the two hardest things we do in this command is fly and fix airplanes," Jumper said.

He said the measure of success as an Air Force depends on how well the mission is executed which primarily has to do with the flying and fixing of airplanes.

"The flying part of it we're pretty darn good at and we've demonstrated that over the years," said the general. The fixing of airplanes has been one of those things that depend on the spirit, proficiency and capability of the maintainers.

Jumper said there's no one more important than that dedicated crew chief. He believes that in every Air Force specialty there's something equivalent to that dedicated crew chief.

The dedicated crew chiefs are going to be the focus of his attention because they make things happen, he said. "We're going to recapture some of that spirit that goes along with great performance in the air."

F-22 acquisition

Jumper said he is 100 percent committed to the F-22 saying that it's time to replace the F-15 because it's getting old and quickly becoming non-competitive.

"This nation has never sent its people into combat with inferior equipment," Jumper said. "The F-22 will give us as (great) a leap in capability over the F-15 as the F-15 gave us over the F-4."

The F-4 came into the Air Force inventory in the early '60s and the F-15 was phased in about 1975. Now

the F-15's been around for 25 years and it's going to be a few years before the F-22 is phased in.

"We owe to the American people the quality of combat capability that they've seen us display over this decade starting with Desert Storm and right up through Kosovo. This country expects its United States Air Force to go out and win these conflicts by a score of 100 to nothing, and that's what we intend to keep doing and the F-22's going to make sure that we do that," Jumper said.

Commitment to stay

The general's roadmap for guiding airmen in their decision to stay or leave the Air Force is similar to the interstate — easy to get on and easy to exit.

It's not a way of life for everyone but what it is, he said, is a way of life for people who are looking for what he calls, "the value of life as much as the quality of life."

The general believes that quality of life is a two-way street. He explained by saying, "It's not only a high standard of living, and we owe our people a high enough standard of living so that they can stand up and stand proud next to their civilian counterparts. But it's also a high standard for life. It's those spiritual, moral and physical rewards that come with knowing you're doing the right thing for yourself and for your nation.

"We owe the people the resources to do their job. We owe them a mission that means something to them, and that's what my job is — to make sure those things happen and that's what I plan to do," the general said.

"So what would I say to keep them on? Just look at what we're looking forward to in this century. It's going to

be a hell of a ride ...," Jumper said.

Anthrax

The anthrax issue amazes the general, having been involved with the immunization program since the beginning of the Gulf War, he said.

"Anthrax is probably the most deadly thing that we face in today's environment. It's as deadly as nuclear weapons and more likely to be used," Jumper said.

People will die if they inhale pulmonary anthrax without any protection and the way they'll die isn't very appealing because the lungs essentially disintegrate, he said.

The technology is available for people to protect themselves against this overwhelming threat and yet, they resist getting the shot said the general.

But, anthrax is a force protection issue, he said. "We need to take those shots and protect ourselves. It's not going to hurt us."

'Back to basics'

During this decade the Air Force has had a lot of turmoil, one of the elements being the excursion into what was called the quality Air Force, said Jumper.

"I think we got a little bit confused about the process being more important than the product," he said.

"When I say back to basics I mean back to the product as the primary focus. It means numbers that we can measure and understand. It means that we compare and compete with one another on outcomes. And it means that we just need to get back to some basic human contacts," he explained.

The general feels that the Air Force lost the mentoring skills that go along with bringing up the young troops to help them understand what their opportunities and choices are during the quality movement.

He said that years ago, when someone made a mistake that was probably bad enough to get them kicked out of the Air Force someone



Photo by A1C Jeffrey Nevison

Gen. John P. Jumper, Air Combat Command commander, talks about the command's biggest challenge, acquisition of the F-22, anthrax, 'Back to Basics,' his personal views and more.

else took notice of them. That someone took that person under their 'wing' and said, "listen, you really messed up but I see a twinkle in your eye and you have a little bit of promise left in you. We're going to work through this together."

"That's what I talk about, back to basics. Get back to that human contact and that thing that makes the Air Force such a great team and a family," the commander said.

Secret to success

The general said he doesn't have a personal theory for the secret to success but said he does have a single rule he lives by.

"The rule I've always used is do your very best at the job you're doing right now and the rest will take care of itself," he said.

He said he's never taken the time to plot out the perfect career path.

"If I'd had to guess what my next job was going to be at any one step in my career, I would have gotten it wrong every time. Opportunities just come your way. The harder you work, the luckier you get. You just do the very best at what you're doing right

now and the rest takes care of itself," Jumper said.

Family message

The general gave the analogy of the troops and their families belonging to a gang.

"We all choose a gang at some point in our lives ... but we join gangs for one reason, I think, and that is to be a part of something. People search for something that's larger than them. So this is the gang we belong to. It's the gang that wears this blue suit, and it's a gang whose mission is to serve our nation. I think there is nothing more noble that we could do with our lives than to respond to that call.

"So what I say to the families is, what you all do is important. It's not important only to the nation and to the Air Force, but it needs to be important to you personally. You need to understand how important this contribution is to your life so you can one day look back and smile at what you were able to do for your fellow man.

"One way or another we're out there doing the business of the nation and responding to that call. It's hard to match that with anything else you choose to do with your life. I've been doing this now for 33 years. I look back with a smile."

Proud to be in ACC

The general said he is very proud to be a part of the command.

"This is a premier four star job. It may not be the best job; because the best job is those people that are out there sitting in the airplanes and that dedicated crew chief that exists one way or another in every specialty that we have. Those are the people who make it happen and my job is to make it happen for you all because the most amazing thing is the people. It's always been the people.

"I'm proud to be here. My family's proud to be here. And we look forward to an exciting tour here at Air Combat Command."

On the edge of life

The psychology, physics of seatbelts

BY MAJ. RANDY WITTER

*552nd Equipment Maintenance Squadron
commander*

How many of you have visited some of our world's great attractions such as the Grand Canyon, Hoover Dam, Royal Gorge Bridge, Eiffel Tower, Space Needle or Empire State Building?

Most of us, in one case or another, have been in situations where we experienced some form of vertigo.

Now imagine that same situation without a rail and you're standing inches from the edge. Just thinking about the situation probably caused your heart to skip a few beats per minute.

We don't trust our balance, we don't trust the wind and we don't trust our loved ones standing next to us. Isn't this amazing? The paranoia associated with the possibility of falling and the reality that the fall will cause death can literally bring some of us to our knees.

How does this relate to seatbelts, you ask? When you're driving without a seatbelt, you not only stepped off the cliff's edge, you started your fall. On a highway at 60 miles per hour, in relation to the car traveling in the opposite direction, you are falling at 120 miles per hour. How unbelievable that we would grab a railing so tightly at the edge of a cliff where we have so

much more control of the outside influences.

In comparison, we will nonchalantly drive down a highway while talking on the cell phone, with a drunk barreling at you in the opposite direction, while negotiating the tight corner, with one hand on the wheel and think nothing of it. So much so, that some of you won't even put on a seatbelt!

The psychology of the car is amazing. I'm holding a steering wheel so I won't fall off the cliff — guess what, you're already falling and the railing is falling with you. Not much good anymore, is it?

I can see one of you rationalizing this now — "I wear my seatbelt on the highway. Who needs it if I'm only traveling 20 mph on base?"

Now let's look at the physics of the matter. How many of you remember jumping off that 10 foot wall when you were younger only to have your legs collapse under you then smash you in the chest as you rolled to the ground?

Imagine making the same jump head-first and stopping yourself with your outstretched arms. Can you visualize the results? Would you be surprised if I told you that you would be traveling only 19 miles per hour at impact?

Okay, okay, okay ... the doubting Thomases who are still looking for an excuse not to wear their seatbelts

want to check my math ... assume a starting center of gravity at 12 feet as you crouch to minimize the travel distance, initial velocity of zero, and standard gravity at 32 feet per second squared ... I assumed your center of gravity would travel the entire 12 feet as you end up flat on your face. Oh yeah, don't forget to convert your results from feet-per-second to mph.

I'm raising these points because a large percent of people still don't get the picture and are not wearing seatbelts. A percentage of people wear seatbelts only on base because they are ordered to. There is even a small population that make the additional effort to actually remove your seatbelts when you leave the base despite state laws.

Hello....!?! Anybody in there?

You can't imagine how ill I feel on the few occasions I get to pick up or drop off my kids at school only to see other parents driving with their kids standing on the front seat. Would you throw your kids off a cliff or even a 10 foot wall?

Please, please, please ... don't let the psychological security of the inside of your car fool you. The reality of physics will always prevail. The minute your car starts rolling, you just stepped over the edge of the cliff. Grab on to your seatbelt, hold on tight, and enjoy the ride of your life ... don't enjoy it with your life.



Find out what's going on in the Air Force on line at

www.af.mil/newspaper

Every Wednesday



Promotions

To COLONEL

William Carter 552nd OSS

To CAPTAIN

Robert Fudge Det 9
Michael McCullough Jr. 963rd AACs
Pong Anderson 552nd TRS
John Caranta III 552nd CSS
Stephen Carocci 965th AACs
Richard Dodge 964th AACs
Matthew Esker 964th AACs
James Michael Ferris 552nd CSG
Eric Fletcher 966th AACs
Corey Harris 552nd AGS
William Hart 963rd AACs
William Jackson 963rd AACs
Christopher Johnson 552nd TRS
Joseph Jones 963rd AACs
James Munroe 552nd TRS
Kevin Murphy 965th AACs
Robert Myer 963rd AACs
Matthew Rowland 552nd ACW
Keith Udcoff 965th AACs
Christopher Vorse 964th AACs
Joshua Wieland 965th AACs
Sean Williams 965th AACs
Robert Williamson 965th AACs
Shayne Yorton 552nd TRS
Ray Zuniga 963rd AACs

To FIRST LIEUTENANT

Brian Towell 965th AACs
Kenneth Alderman 552nd OSS
Charles Benbow 552nd TRS
Dawn Drinkwine 552nd TRS
Anthony Ehnes 963rd AACs
Jeffrey Findley 552nd TRS
Jennifer Fugiel 552nd TRS
John Gustafson 552nd TRS
Larry Hamby 965th AACs
Christel Helquist 552nd TRS
Andrew Hoyle 552nd TRS
Jeremy Huffaker 552nd TRS
Matthew James 552nd TRS
Jason Knowles 552nd TRS
Christopher Macaulay 552nd AGS
James Marlow 965th AACs
Uvalde Mendez 552nd TRS
Roman Miazga 552nd TRS
Roland Mitchell 552nd TRS
David Ortiz 552nd TRS
Brian Oshea 552nd TRS
Trent Prange 552nd TRS
Seth Reagan 965th AACs
Bena Sellers 552nd AGS
Daniel Svalya 552nd TRS
Michelle Turquette 552nd TRS
Erwin Waibel 552nd TRS
Mark James Walske 552nd TRS
Christopher Warren 552nd OSS
Joshua Warren 552nd TRS
Andrew West 552nd TRS
Dennis Wilde 552nd TRS
Rachel Williams 965th AACs
William Woodward 552nd OSS
Robert Zeese 552nd TRS
Mario Zuniga 552nd TRS

To CHIEF MASTER SERGEANT

William Burgher Det 6

To MASTER SERGEANT

Steven Brady 552nd TRS
Phillip Fields 552nd CRS
Luis Figueroa 963rd AACs

To TECHNICAL SERGEANT

Donald Cook 552nd AGS
Bradley Darling 552nd EMS
Scotty Edwards 963rd AACs
Stacy Leighton 552nd EMS

Gregory Pearson 965th AACs
David Stubblefield 552nd CSS
Gerald Vallow 752nd CSS

To STAFF SERGEANT

Thomas Briskey 966th AACs
James Howey 552nd OSS
William Hurd 552nd EMS
Willie Jackson III 552nd AGS
Kochitia Kimbrough 552nd LG
Randall Kwiatkowski 552nd OSS
Bruce Lacy Jr. 963rd AACs
Eric Lightner 552nd CRS
Wayne Mangiardi 552nd CRS
Spencer Alan McLaughlin 552nd EMS
William Miklo 552nd CRS
Robert Mullins 552nd AGS
Sciria Robinson 552nd CRS
Charles Thibodeaux III 964th AACs

To SENIOR AIRMAN

Jim McMahon 963rd AACs
Bryan Naff 552nd AGS
Shawn Ryan 965th AACs
Dewey Belcher II 963rd AACs
Jason Ferguson 963rd AACs
Angela Hill 752nd CSS
Matthew Miller 552nd AGS
Peter Reiley 552nd AGS
Michael Belluomini 964th AACs
Michele Deoliveira 552nd AGS
Michael Eckholdt 552nd CRS
Ryan Hardy 552nd CRS
Monique Rocchildwade 552nd ACW
Christopher Sherman 552nd CRS
Patrick Donohue 552nd CSS
Nicholas Evans 552nd EMS

To AIRMAN FIRST CLASS

Michael Biddick 963rd AACs
Alexis Fundora 552nd TRS
Andrew Marabella 552nd CRS
Angelina Badovinatz 752nd CSS
Marc Gifford 964th AACs
Ivrie Mann 552nd AGS
Joshua Sistar 552nd AGS
Christopher Styskal 552nd AGS
Stephen Clough Jr. 552nd CSS
Michael Walsh 552nd CSS
Adam Parnell 965th AACs

To AIRMAN

Katrina Moore 552nd LSS
Lakandria Reason 552nd LSS
Jeffrey Stewart 552nd TRS
Jennifer Corzo 752nd CSS
Ryan Decosimo 552nd AGS
Cassandra Grose 752nd CSS
Calvin Harris 552nd AGS
Timothy Keefer 552nd AGS
Joshua Williams 552nd EMS

Decorations

AIR FORCE ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL

SrA. Danny Ballengree 552nd AGS
SrA. Brent Brumley 552nd AGS
SrA. Matthew Morgan 552nd AGS
SrA. Michael Smith 552nd AGS
SSgt. Bryan Gaines 552nd CRS
A1C Timothy Rogers 552nd CRS
Sgt. Katrina Stanley 552nd EMS
1st Lt. James McGregor 552nd TRS

AIR FORCE COMMENDATION MEDAL

SSgt. Oscar Jenison Jr. 552nd CSS
SSgt. Curtis Rayborn 752nd CSS
SSgt. David Boswell 552nd AGS
SSgt. Paul Chance 552nd AGS
SSgt. Robert Davis 552nd AGS
TSgt. Burt Renard 552nd AGS
TSgt. Donald Tanner 552nd AGS
SSgt. James House 552nd EMS

TSgt. Davis Overton 552nd EMS
SSgt. Charles Swiantkiewicz 552nd EMS
SSgt. Aaron Weed 552nd EMS
SSgt. Robert Ames 552nd OSS
1st Lt. Bill Quintana Jr. 552nd TRS
SSgt. Marryann Ramirez 965th AACs
SSgt. James Wynn 965th AACs

JOINT SERVICE COMMENDATION MEDAL

SSgt. Jennifer Thomas 552nd ACW

AERIAL ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL

SSgt. James Peters 552nd TRS
SrA. Dale Lee Jr. 963rd AACs
1st Lt. David Fisher 963rd AACs
1st Lt. Christopher Forman 963rd AACs
SrA. Jose Galvan 963rd AACs
SSgt. Carlson Guerrant 963rd AACs
SSgt. Thomas Jung 963rd AACs
Capt. James Kelley Jr. 963rd AACs
1st Lt. Karen Kelley 963rd AACs
Capt. Michael Kirkman 963rd AACs
Capt. Alex McConnell 963rd AACs
SrA. Jason Schelke 963rd AACs
1st Lt. Douglas Smith 963rd AACs
Capt. Steven Spiegel 963rd AACs
SrA. Brian Barber 964th AACs
SSgt. Jerry Cuda III 964th AACs
SrA. Eric Ferguson 964th AACs
SSgt. Carl Grieger 964th AACs
1st Lt. Jeffrey Means 964th AACs
SSgt. Isabel Rodea Jr. 964th AACs
SrA. David Stanglein 964th AACs
1st Lt. Angel Texidor Jr. 964th AACs
SSgt. Charles Thibodeaux 964th AACs
SrA. Joshua Tilse 964th AACs
A1C Jesse Walck 964th AACs
SSgt. Brian Brown 965th AACs
SrA. Linda Hood 965th AACs
SrA. Angela Collins 966th AACs

MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL

TSgt. Teddy Smith 552nd ACW
Maj. William Zeck 552nd AGS
Maj. Troy Jackson 552nd OSS
Maj. Robert Littrell 552nd OSS
Maj. Christopher Hawes 552nd TRS
MSgt. Phillip Rushing 552nd TRS
Maj. Stephen Schifani 552nd TRS

Reenlistments

SSgt. Jeremy Carter 552nd CSS
SSgt. William Muse Jr. 552nd CSS
SrA. Kevin Fox 752nd CSS
MSgt. Terry Johnson 752nd CSS
SrA. Marc Sanders 752nd CSS
TSgt. Andrew Olmstead 552nd LG
SSgt. Andre Allen 552nd AGS
SrA. John Dodson 552nd AGS
SrA. Joshua Coleman 552nd CRS
SrA. Michelle Deuel 552nd CRS
SrA. Kip Hughes 552nd CRS
SSgt. Luis Matos Jr. 552nd CRS
SrA. Ericson Wolford 552nd CRS
SSgt. Milton Johnson 552nd EMS
SSgt. Tod Pade 552nd EMS
SrA. Rachel Prince 552nd EMS
SrA. Nichole Chapman 552nd OSS
SSgt. Timothy Frost 552nd OSS
TSgt. Rory Thompson 552nd OSS
SrA. Randolph Bosch 963rd AACs
SSgt. Tim Gydvov 963rd AACs
SrA. Melissa Mudro 963rd AACs
SSgt. Michelle Wilson 963rd AACs
SrA. Theresa Digregorio 964th AACs
SSgt. Thomas Narak 964th AACs
TSgt. Jesse Trawick 964th AACs
TSgt. Brian Bickett 965th AACs
TSgt. James Romano 965th AACs
SSgt. William Rowlette 965th AACs
SrA. Scott Stanley 965th AACs

Retirements

MSgt. Charles Hale 552nd AGS

Hidden Hero

Name/Unit: Gordon Fitzgerald/552nd CSG

Duty title: Chief of programs

Time on station/in squadron: 15 years

Major volunteer projects in the last year: *President of Harrah Lions Club, prepared and delivered Thanksgiving and Christmas meals to Jesus House, tornado recovery efforts, helped rebuild Girl Scout campground, active in church.*

Why do you volunteer: *I am truly blessed. I have a better family, friends and job than I deserve. My needs and many of my desires are met. I would be greatly remiss in not helping others who are not as fortunate.*

Project you enjoyed working with the most:

There's the 9-year-old boy who tells me he can read the blackboard at school for the first time; the resident at the Boy's Ranch who will not be in trouble again because he has a chance to be responsible and shown he really is important; the look on the faces of the destitute family that could not provide a warm blanket for their children; the recovery of an American flag that had been draped over a coffin of a man's son, who was killed in Vietnam, from a home destroyed by the tornado; playing in the church orchestra ... how could I decide?



Photo by Cheryl Stefanel



Photo by SrA. Jennifer Johnner

Capt. Kevin Payne, left, 552nd CSS, paints window trim while SrA. Bobby Rozas, above right, and TSgt. Bud Hughes, both 552nd LSS members, repair a soffit as part of Christmas in April on April 8. More than 400 volunteer wing members participated in the event, which helped make repairs to five homes. The annual event repairs homes belonging to the elderly and low income families.